



August 1, 2003

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The Honorable Ken Calvert, Chair
House Water and Power Subcommittee
1522 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Via Fax: 202.226.6953

The Honorable Grace Napolitano, Ranking Member
House Water and Power Subcommittee
1522 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Via Fax: 202.225.0027

Re: Support for H.R. 2828, *The Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act.*

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member Napolitano,

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) supports H.R. 2828, *The Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act*. H.R. 2828 addresses California's complicated water issues through innovative technologies designed to increase water supplies and diversify sources, while enhancing the environment.

EMWD is especially pleased with Title I of the bill that recognizes the importance of alternative water supply projects including desalination and water reuse projects. EMWD is looking to desalination technology as a way to manage both local and imported water sources to achieve a long-term salt balance in our Riverside County service area. Desalination projects will protect high quality groundwater basins and enable us to increase our water reuse; thus reducing the amount of water needed to be imported to our service area. We support the proposal in the bill establishing a comprehensive competitive grants program for sea and brackish water desalination projects, brine management and disposal, and water reuse.

EMWD strongly supports the CALFED approach of finding integrated solutions to California's complex water supply problems, and we support the authorization of CALFED included in H.R. 2828. Authorizing CALFED is essential to resolving California's water problems in a way that expands our economy and maintains our quality of life.

The Honorable Ken Calvert
The Honorable Grace Napolitano
August 1, 2003
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EMWD supports, in concept, the establishment of an Office of the Federal Water Resources Coordinator as outlined in Title I and the establishment of a centralized regulatory office in California as described in Title II. We believe there is a need for State and Federal agencies to work together to develop a comprehensive approach to meeting the water needs of California and the nation.

EMWD also supports funding to address Salton Sea issues and watershed and water quality concerns.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to addressing California's complex water problems. I have enclosed a copy of our written testimony that was provided to your subcommittee for the California Water Supply Field Hearing's you held earlier this summer. The testimony describes the efforts EMWD is currently undertaking to develop and manage local water resources and the challenges we face in securing reliable, affordable water supplies.

If you need further assistance with the passage of H.R. 2828, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Hall, President
Board of Directors

/ch

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Mary Bono
Representative Jerry Lewis
Representative Darrell Issa
ACWA